

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01456 041637Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 OES-06 ERDA-05 /076 W  
-----042106Z 053875 /63

R 041344Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0232  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SW  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WITH A MAJORITY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE LATEST SURVEY OF VOTER PREFERENCE CONDUCTED BY THE RESPECTED SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR OPINION RESEARCH (SIFO) INDICATES THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND OLOF PALME WOULD HAVE THEIR OWN MAJORITY IN THE RIKSDAG IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY. THE POLL SHOWS THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE NOW SUPPORTED BY 47.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS, COMPARED WITH THE 42.7 PERCENT THEY RECEIVED IN LAST SEPTEMBER'S ELECTION. THIS IS THE STRONGEST SHOWING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE MADE FOR YEARS, AND CONTRASTS WITH A FOUR PERCENT DECLINE IN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNING NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES, WHICH RECEIVED 46.5 PERCENT IN THE POLL, SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN GAINING STEADILY FOR THE PAST COUPLE MONTHS WHILE THE CENTER PARTY IN PARTICULAR HAS LOST SUPPORT.

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2. THE POLL ALSO CONTAINED THE FIRST OBJECTIVE INDICATION OF PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SPLIT IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) WHICH RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNIST WORKER'S PARTY (APK). THE SIFO RESULTS INDICATE THAT WHILE THE APK HAS ONLY MARGINAL SUPPORT (0.5 PERCENT), IT HAS FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST ATTRACTED

SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO DRAG THE VPK BELOW THE FOUR PERCENT LEVEL NEEDED TO RIKSDAG REPRESENTATION.

3. POLL RESULTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (PERCENTAGE OF VOTER SUPPORT:)

	MARCH 77	DECEMBER 76	ELECTION 76
CENTER	21.0	22.0	24.1
MODERATE	15.5	16.0	15.6
LIBERAL	10.0	12.0	11.1
SOCIAL DEMOCRAT	47.5	44.0	42.7
VPK	3.5	4.0	4.8
APK	0.5	--	--

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4. COMMENT: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE CLAIMING THAT VOTERS ARE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT AS IT FAILS TO COPE WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, WHILE PARTY SECRETARIES OF THE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES DESCRIBE THEIR LOSSES AS NATURAL AND MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLL RESULTS. DESPITE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE APPEARANCE OF GOVERNMENT IMPOTENCE IS ERODING THE BASE OF SUPPORT FOR THE NON-SOCIALISTS. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND PALME, HAVING THE LUXURY OF BEING FREE TO ATTACK WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY, ARE AT THE MOMENT REAPING THE POLITICAL BENEFITS. ANOTHER FACTOR UNDOUBTEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRIBUTING TO DECREASING CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT IS THE CHRONIC SKIRMISHING WITHIN THE COALITION OVER NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY WHICH HAS CREATED AN IMAGE OF INSTABILITY, PREOCCUPATION, AND A TENDENCY TO DEAL WITH PRESSING PROBLEMS ON AN AD HOC BASIS. THE POLL RESULTS MAY PROVIDE SOME BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IN THAT THEY MAY GIVE PAUSE TO THOSE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CENTER PARTY, WHO HAVE BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW ELECTIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. SMITH

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WITH A MAJORITY BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009